

**Director's Profile**  
**DAVID J. WILSON**



Since joining the MSA Board of Directors in May of 2004, David Wilson has demonstrated a strong and active commitment to the work of the Miramichi Salmon Association. David has provided valuable participation and his contributions have included chairing the Fredericton Conservation Dinners to a great success for the past number of years.

Entering the insurance business upon university graduation in 1965, David worked as an apprentice and sales producer at the insurance brokerage started by his father. In 1975, he became President of Wilson Insurance Ltd. in Fredericton and piloted the growth of the company from a sales volume of \$500,000 to \$20,000,000 and a dominant position in Central New Brunswick. In the insurance business, his expertise includes construction accounts as well as a generalist in all commercial risks. As a current member of the management team, he serves as the CEO and oversees the financial requirements necessary to finance growth.

Throughout this evolution, David also played significant community roles in the Fredericton area having served as a board member and chairman of the Fredericton Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis Club, United Way, YMCA, Christ Church Cathedral and the Chalmers Regional Hospital Foundation in which he currently serves as Chair. In addition, he served the community as a City Councillor and acted in leadership fundraising activities for the "Y", Chalmers Hospital, Cathedral Restoration, United Way, Small Craft Aquatic Center and the Fredericton Community Pool.

Spare time is enjoyed with his wife Elizabeth, and the other girls of his life, his daughters Jodie and Heather and three grandchildren, Wilson, Caeden and Kira. Between fishing trips at the Kenmore Fishing Club, or the Ledges and Mountain Channel, he still finds time to play some golf and serves as Chair of the Chalmers Regional Hospital Foundation.

We are pleased and proud to recognize the important work and contributions which David Wilson brings to his community and to the salmon conservation mission of the MSA. We deeply appreciate and respect his dedication and commitment.

*Miramichi Salmon Association Inc.*  
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**Miramichi Mid-Season Salmon Report**

**By Mark Hambrook**



The salmon run to the Miramichi has been an "on again, off again" situation so far this season. In early June, the run started as is the norm, with some large salmon entering the river. However, the run didn't pick up as usual mid-June and fish continued to trickle in and quickly moved

upstream with the high water. Usually there are a fair number of grilse showing up in mid-June, but this year they were very scarce. By the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, everyone was starting to worry as the numbers in the DFO traps in Millerton and Cassilis were near record lows and yet water levels were good and the temperature was cool. Then on July 6, the numbers began to pick up in Millerton and a few days later at Cassilis. In a normal month of July, 25% salmon and 75% grilse would be caught in the DFO traps, but each day there were more salmon than grilse being trapped. The all-time record for large salmon numbers in the Millerton trap was broken on July 14 this year with 159 salmon and 89 grilse being counted. The fish continued to pour in until around July 24 when the number of fish started dropping back to normal daily counts for that time of year.

This run of large salmon was expected following the large run of grilse last year. There were a high number of smolts counted leaving the Southwest Miramichi River in 2007 and the grilse, which are mostly males, returned in 2008. Now the females are returning in 2009 as salmon. The number of salmon on the Southwest Miramichi should break all previous records for the year, if the rest of the year continues to have a normal run, but the grilse numbers this year are down to the same levels as seen in the late 1990's. The amazing and mysterious thing about salmon is that as soon as you think you have an understanding of what might be happening, something different will take place. Since we are only half-way through the season, the total runs for the year could drastically change. There is optimism that there will be a large run of grilse to follow. But for right now, for those on the river fishing, there are more salmon being caught than grilse. If you are where the fish are, this is about the best fishing you will find anywhere!

**Grilse and Salmon Counts**

The following charts the grilse and salmon counts at the various stations on the Miramichi River .

	Miramichi River <u>Grilse</u> Counts as of August 16						Miramichi River <u>Salmon</u> Counts as of August 16					
	Average 1996-2000	Average 2001-2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Average 1996-2000	Average 2001-2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Northwest Protection Barrier	451	392	340	322	681	206	151	135	157	114	111	112
Northwest Cassilis Trapnet		737	341	718	588	213		172	69	276	84	154
Southwest Millerton Trapnet	685	1682	1895	992	1203	783	186	447	512	366	215	747
Dungarvon Protection Barrier	304	240	309	159	579	148	100	105	135	77	109	159
Southwest Juniper Barrier	332	399	447	305	492	181	137	208	353	170	259	328



**ENJOY YOUR FISHING SEASON  
ON THE MIRAMICHI!**



## Miramichi Update - Introduction of Smallmouth Bass

By Jenny Reid

Smallmouth bass are a warm water species which distribution has been expanded by unauthorized introductions. Smallmouth bass are considered to be an invasive species to the Miramichi River watershed, and much of New Brunswick. Juvenile smallmouth bass compete with Atlantic salmon for food within river systems, and as smallmouth bass become larger they can prey on juvenile Atlantic salmon. The Miramichi is unique in that it is one of the few rivers with a viable salmon population, and the MSA's mission is to protect this valuable resource.



Jenny Reid, MSA Biologist

MSA staff has been working extensively through the spring and summer with the Miramichi Watershed Management Committee (MWMC) to assess the distribution and number of smallmouth bass in Miramichi Lake and Lake Brook, which enters the Southwest Miramichi. In an attempt to contain smallmouth bass to Miramichi Lake and Lake Brook, two barrier fences with fine meshed nets were installed, one at the outlet of Miramichi Lake in an attempt to contain them to the lake; the other 500 m from the mouth of Lake Brook where it enters the Southwest Miramichi in a further attempt to prevent any smallmouth bass that may have been in the brook from entering the Southwest Miramichi. MSA crews have been extensively electrofishing the area between the barriers to remove any smallmouth bass that may be present.

Recently we started an extensive program to remove as many smallmouth bass as possible from the lake by using trap nets, gill nets and angling in an effort to reduce the number of juveniles and spawning bass that will be available for next year.



Chris Connell, DNR Biologist

To date, four different ages of bass have been found, from young of the year to four-year old fish, the majority being the former. Based upon our surveys, the distribution of smallmouth bass appears to be in the upper stretch of Lake Brook and in Miramichi Lake with the population appearing to be relatively small. Due to this distribution and size, it is hoped that we will be able to eradicate smallmouth bass from the Miramichi watershed and protect the other native species that live in it.



Lake Brook, which enters the Southwest Miramichi

## The Beautiful Miramichi

By William T. Griffin  
1881-1974

In the South West and the mountains where the red deer have their home  
Where the spruce trees grow in millions, where the partridge rear their young  
Where the black bear feed on beechnuts and the cow moose plaintive call  
Breaks the stillness of the evening in the early months of fall,  
Where the dew drop in the morning and the melting snow of spring  
Brings water to the flowers, and the birds begin to sing,  
Tumbling brooks from off the hillsides start their journey to the sea,  
Tis the birthplace of a river, The Lovely Miramichi.

Growing ever growing in volume and in strength  
United waters gather from countless valleys length,  
And the North Branch meets the South Branch in a pool so clear and deep  
Where the brook trout and the salmon in their freedom swim and leap,  
The wild rose and the alder grow near the water edge  
And the current of the river is hampered by a ledge,  
The moving waters murmur in endless protest  
And the wild duck in the bull rush is hidden on its nest,  
In the air the swallows skimming and the buzzing of a bee  
Lends enchantment to this river, The Lovely Miramichi.

Over sand bars to deep pools where the silver salmon stay  
Resting on their journey upward or are taking time to play,  
The muskrat and the beaver have their homes upon the shores  
And food is stored for winter not too far from their doors,  
The horned owl and the eagle in the light of dusk and day  
On silent wings and searching eyes go hunting for their prey,  
Where the Native man had his tepee, and built his bark canoe  
There the years they have not changed it, and there is nothing new,  
While the river keeps on flowing in its valley to the sea,  
And God has made no other like the Lovely Miramichi.

The men and the maiden they have come from many lands  
To live in pure contentment, to walk upon the sands,  
To angle for the salmon or for the speckled trout  
See the splendor of the sunset as the day is fading out,  
The campfire in the darkness brings cheer to young and old  
To millionaire and trapper as stories they are told,  
Of valor, romance, fiction, or facts of history,  
All have added to the glory of, The Lovely Miramichi.

The cabin in the wilderness with the river flowing by  
Silence in a wonderland, a rainbow in the sky,  
A fragrant bed of balsam boughs where tired minds may sleep  
While kinfolk of the forests their nightly vigil keep,  
The bannock in the morning, the kettle on the flame  
And the odor of the coffee brew can never be the same  
To you, to me and many more who live a life so free  
As when camping in the woodlands of the Lovely Miramichi.

From the birthplace of this river in the mountains of the west  
To the tide that comes to meet it, of all others it is best,  
And God has used his talent in making such a stream  
Where life is still worth living, and it is possible to dream  
Of peace, and understanding, with love among mankind  
Release from hell and torment, humanity may find,  
Pray when we cross the Jordan, and meet the Referee  
We will hear the grand decision, You are on the Miramichi.

(Permission to print this poem granted by grandson Bill Griffin of Boiestown)



## Kelt Tracking Updates 2008/2009

By Jenny Reid

We had a very successful year with the kelt tracking program in 2008, with 48 of the 50 kelts fitted with transmitters passing successfully through Miramichi Bay, and 22 of those making it through the Strait of Belle Isle. Four kelts were picked up in other fish movement studies, three moved north, along the eastern coast of Labrador and one was picked up south of Miramichi, near the Kouchibouguac River. In 2008, three kelts returned to the Miramichi River that summer to spawn, spawned, then successfully over-wintered and went out to sea again in 2009. One of these kelts returned to the river again in July, hopefully to spawn in the fall of 2009. So far at least three additional kelts have returned to the river from the 2008 tagging and we expect to have more returning over the course of the year.

This year, we tagged 50 kelts, 25 from the Southwest Miramichi and 25 from the Northwest

Miramichi. The fishing was very good and we were able to angle the kelts over three days. A range of fish sizes were tagged, with the smallest being 22.2 inches (2 lbs) and the largest being 37 inches (12.5 lbs). Fifteen of the fish were female, thirty three were male and two were of unknown sex. Of the 50 kelts that were tagged at the head of tide, forty-three of the tagged kelts made it to the rivers' mouth in 2009. The kelts from 2009 have already moved through Miramichi Bay and the Strait of Belle Isle and we are expecting the results shortly. More frequent updates on this program can be found on the MSA website at [www.miramichisalmon.ca](http://www.miramichisalmon.ca).

There are still a few kelts available to be sponsored. If you are interested in sponsoring a kelt please contact the MSA office in South Esk 506-622-4000, or email [msajenny@nb.aibn.com](mailto:msajenny@nb.aibn.com).

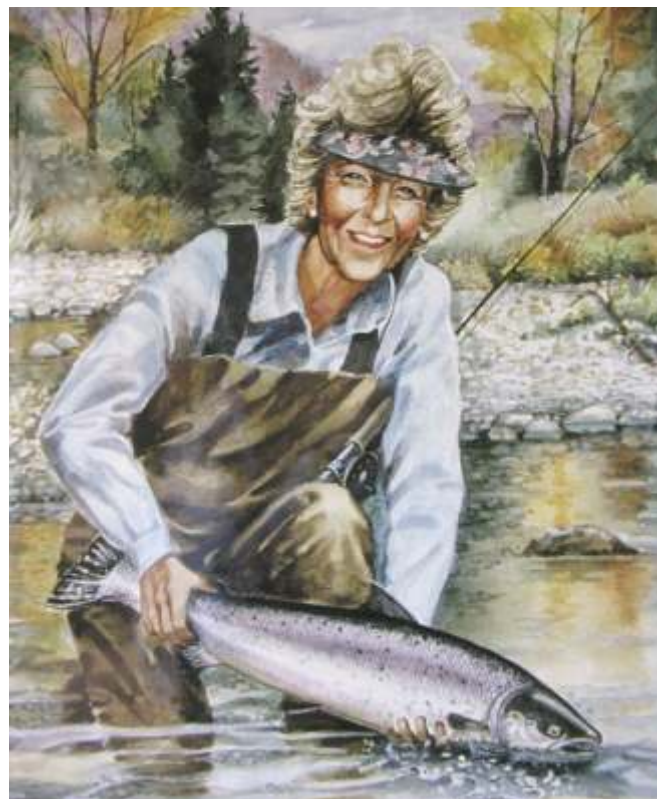
## To Drown or to Suffocate

Humans and fish share a common need to sustain life - oxygen. Humans receive oxygen from air filtered through their lungs. Fish receive oxygen from water filtered through their gills.

This brings forth the message in the title of this article. If humans are held *under* water for a long period of time, they will drown. If fish are kept *out* of water for a long period of time, they will suffocate. Please keep this in mind when you fish! We all want to take a picture of the large Salmon caught, but please practise the following steps:

- a. Use barbless hooks.
- b. Try not to use a net.
- c. Do not beach the Salmon.
- d. Do not take the fish from the water.
- e. A very quick hook removal can be accomplished with your fingers.
- f. Keep the Salmon's head pointed upstream.
- g. Take quick pictures of the Salmon with it partially submerged.
- h. Hold the Salmon by the tail with one hand.
- i. Gently rub the stomach with the other hand to release built-up gases.
- j. It will free itself when it is ready.

Remember the words of the great advocate of Hook and Release, Lee Wulff "Fish are too valuable to be caught only once".



Joan Wulff Releasing Salmon (Painting by Arthur Taylor)

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

## Chairman's Report



Doug MacDonald

This issue of the Salmonletter contains the written Annual Report for 2008, which was presented at the Annual General Meeting in Boiestown in May. You will see from the following section that the MSA continues to be the vibrant, hands-on salmon conservation organization, and is extremely busy carrying on many important projects in order to protect and optimize the populations of Salmon stocks in the Miramichi River.

We are fortunate to have great support and participation on many fronts. We have a great MSA team in the Directors and staff. The people of the Miramichi are to be saluted - all those outfitters, guides, cooks, caretakers everyone who make a visiting angler's stay so memorable. I continue to feel incredible pride and joy that people come from all over the world to fish this river

that we have right on our doorstep. To all government agencies, industries, organizations, anglers, businesses, individuals, guests at our various fundraising dinners, donors and sponsors to our many auctions, thank you!

MSA members are among one of the greatest conservation organizations on the planet, and I thank you for being with us. It is my hope that everyone who ever enjoys fishing on this amazing river will become a member of the Miramichi Salmon Association. Please support that which gives us so much pleasure. It is important to do all we can to save and keep this river and its resource healthy for our grandchildren and generations beyond.

Thank you and my personal best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable season on the Miramichi River!

Doug MacDonald

## President's Report



Mark Hambrook

The 2008 angling season saw one of the best returns of grilse in the summer period in over a decade, with record catches at the DFO Millerton trap and anglers reporting the best summer angling in over 25 years. The official assessment for 2008, however, did not indicate such a large run of grilse due to the inability of the traps to monitor the whole run because of high water levels from the heavy summer rains. It also appears that most of the fall-run of salmon and grilse entered the river in August when the water levels were high and the temperature cool. The overall view of 2008 was a great run of grilse, a decent run of large salmon and most fish entered the river in July and August resulting in a smaller than normal fall-run. The overall spawning escapement would be close to spawning targets, but since the grilse are mostly males, they would not add a lot to overall egg numbers.

The MSA tried to assist DFO in 2008 to improve the estimate of salmon numbers in the various tributaries of the Miramichi by seining pools to determine the ratio of tagged to untagged salmon and grilse. Since the estimate is based on tagging a

certain number of fish each year and then looking at the ratio of tagged to untagged fish to determine the total population, seining a relatively large number of pools could help in that determination. However, the rains of 2008 inhibited our ability to seine many of the targeted pools and we were confined to small headwater pools where water levels weren't as big a factor. This program will be repeated in 2009 if water levels are low enough to seine enough pools.

The MSA hired 10 technicians in 2008 from the First Nation communities of Red Bank and Eel Ground to form the Miramichi Conservation Corps. This has been a positive step in strengthening the relationship with the Aboriginal community and many of the technicians will be employed again in 2009. There are issues to be resolved around the Aboriginal right to kill large salmon, but dialogue and cooperation is the best way to forge a partnership to ensure sufficient large female salmon make it to the spawning beds each year.

The discovery of smallmouth bass in Miramichi Lake is a very serious issue and the MSA is cooperating with the Miramichi Watershed Committee, DFO and DNR to try to eradicate the species from the Miramichi Watershed. The work of so many people can be destroyed by the actions of a few and the illegal introduction of a new dominant fish species to the Miramichi has to be destroyed or it will have an adverse effect on our ecosystem and salmon populations.

## Membership Report

The Membership Committee, headed by co-chairs Dan Cain in Canada and Stephen Hibbard in the United States, has a mandate to increase membership in the MSA. Future salmon conservation success relies on recruiting future anglers to the cause. At year end 2008, MSA had 943 active members, with another 114 given complimentary memberships. This latter category was developed to give those anglers who fish from some of MSA's supporting outfitters a

complimentary MSA membership for one year, in the hopes that they will continue their MSA enrollment in the following year and beyond.

We remain firmly committed to our mission statement *to take management actions to optimize the populations of juvenile Salmon stocks in the Miramichi River*. Your personal support is vital to this goal. Thank you for being with us.

## Annual Financial Report

Finance Committee chairman Carl Ash, FCA reports that the Miramichi Salmon Association, from an organizational viewpoint, is a complicated entity, made so by the participation of members raising funds in two tax jurisdictions. Additionally, the lease arrangements with the Miramichi Watershed Management Committee for the operation of the Miramichi Salmon Conservation Centre adds another layer of complexity. Because of these factors, the Miramichi Salmon Association is made up of three legal entities: Miramichi Salmon Association, Inc.; a Canadian registered charity; Miramichi Salmon

Association (U.S.) Inc., a US registered charity; and Miramichi Fisheries Management Ltd., a NB limited company which operates the Miramichi Salmon Conservation Centre, formerly DFO's South Esk fish hatchery. Although the three legal entities that make up the MSA have individual financial statements, approved by the Board of Directors, a consolidated statement better demonstrates the size, scope and results of operations. The following is the consolidated statement of operations for the Miramichi Salmon Association for the year ended December 31, 2008.

### MIRAMICHI SALMON ASSOCIATION, INC. CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008

	2008	2007
Revenue		
Fundraising Dinners	\$ 191,140	\$ 178,056
Transfers from MSA (U.S.) Inc.	104,943	87,303
Membership and Donations	69,140	63,965
Government Grants	87,942	134,482
Fish Sales	269,739	137,769
Endowment Fund Income	11,420	19,669
Investment Income	1,882	98
Rental Income	24,623	24,018
Miscellaneous Income	7,331	5,172
	<u>768,160</u>	<u>650,532</u>
Expenses		
Salaries and benefits	256,466	224,466
Office expenses	90,786	85,777
Publicity and newsletter	9,849	15,763
Travel	23,773	23,554
Fund raising expenses	8,098	14,135
Hatchery Operations	192,619	112,540
River projects	172,082	166,036
Jack Fenety Scholarship	10,200	10,100
	<u>763,873</u>	<u>652,371</u>
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	\$ 4,287	\$ (1,839)

## The Release of a Fisherman

George Amos  
1922 - 2009

A stalwart friend of the Atlantic Salmon, the Miramichi River, Conservation organizations and all the people of Doaktown passed away on Canada Day this year, after a brief illness. George Amos served as Guide on the river for the better part of his life as well as being on the Warden Service. He was well known and always ready to go fishing. He served as head guide for the Miramichi Anglers Association of Doaktown as well as a caretaker/guide for a camp on the Cains River.

the centre of Doaktown the boat slid from the back of his truck and landed in the middle of Main Street. Everyone knew the river was going to "riz" a powerful amount since George had launched his boat in the middle of Main Street for fishing the next day.

George, we love you and know that there is a place for you to fish the Miramichi! Not Goodbye - but Good Fishing!

There wasn't a pool that George did not know on his beat and he probably taught most of the "Sports", as well as many locals how to fish for salmon. His unique casting ability always drew awe as he cast an eighty foot line and then released the remainder of 100 feet into the air to float softly to the water placing the fly before the salmon's eyes. If nothing else, he was noted for his ability to eat (napping thereafter) bedecked in his orange painted Fedora with a back pack over his shoulders which also sported an orange coat of paint lest there be hunters about. His expertise extended into this field as well and people can only recall one year that he did not take a deer.

One spring, with the rain threatening to raise the river ever higher, he placed his boat in the back of his truck, left the bridge and headed for home for the evening. As he turned from route 8 into the entrance of the South Road in



## A Smile Tells a Thousand Words!

The highlight for most visitors to MSA's Conservation Centre at the South Esk hatchery is the opportunity to fish for brook trout at the U-fish ponds. Two ponds, with one stocked with small trout and the other with large trout, provide the enjoyment of catching and keeping these beautiful fish. Fishing rods are provided and no licences are required, but you must keep what you catch at a cost of \$5.00/lb.

Recently, Kiera and Chloe Peters of Calgary had some luck while visiting their grandparents Elmer and Betty Silliker of Exmoor, NB. Thanks girls for coming, and next time show your grandfather your expertise trying for the big one in the Miramichi River!



## Annual Fredericton Conservation Dinner Honours Dr. Jack MacKay A Big Evening Planned!

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Fredericton Conservation Dinner will be held at the Fredericton Inn on Wednesday, September 16, 2009. What is sure to be a memorable evening will be shared by anglers, conservationists, salmon enthusiasts and community members alike as they share in paying well deserved recognition to Dr. Jack E. MacKay as well as compete in the bidding for a great range of fishing trips, works of art and numerous interesting items.

Guests will be welcomed at a 5:30 reception and silent auction, with dinner to follow at 7:00 PM, including Dr. MacKay as guest speaker, and the evening will end with a grand auction. A large organizing committee of MSA volunteers has been preparing for this event over several weeks, with David Wilson as chair of this project.

*“Certainly a deserved recognition”, says David Wilson. “Not only has Jack been an icon in the medical field in this community throughout his career, he has put his stamp on the continuing campaign to recruit new members and to renew the commitment of existing ones for the MSA. It is time to recognize and pay tribute for all the contributions he has made in his many roles.”*

With his great love for the Atlantic salmon and the Miramichi River, and a deep commitment to conservation of these resources, the mission of the Miramichi Salmon Association has consistently been among Jack's highest goals. Will you please join us on



September 16 to share in this tribute. A full capacity crowd of 600 guests is anticipated, with both individual and full table reservations now being received at the MSA office in Fredericton at 457-2220. Your presence is appreciated and vital to fundraising for our common conservation cause!

### Tag These Dates Too!

Please also take note of other events coming up. For tickets to either of these events, please call Jo-Anne Linton at 506-457-2220. We would be pleased to have you join us!

- The joint ASF/MSA Dinner - Wednesday, November 4, 2009 at a new location the Saint John Port Cruise Terminal
- The Boston Dinner - Saturday, February 6, 2010 at the Burlington Marriott.

The MSA is extremely grateful to all owners, artists and sponsors who so generously make available their camps and waters, artistic creations and gifts to help sustain conservation action for Atlantic Salmon on the Miramichi River. The successful organization of these events is also the result of major contributions of time and effort by dedicated men and women who comprise the various dinner committees. We thank them for their extremely important assistance. And finally, these fundraising events would not be the success without the attendance of all who join us. We deeply appreciate this participation and support. Thank you!

## Conservation Planning Committee Report

The Conservation Planning Committee, chaired by Director Chris Smith, is the group that decides what field programs the MSA will pursue, subject to Board approval. All Directors are invited to sit on this committee and it dominated the agenda of MSA meetings. The committee historically has a detailed workshop on the day before the annual meeting in Boiestown in the spring. In attendance are MSA Directors, biologists and staff, DFO biologists and managers, DNR, ASF and private company biologists, university researchers, and representatives from other conservation groups. The MSA field programs are reviewed and critiqued and a preview of other fisheries related projects taking place on the Miramichi are presented. The Conservation Planning Committee will then decide during subsequent meetings what programs will be implemented in future years. The Conservation Planning Committee strives to implement science-based programs for the river and assists in research to provide the basis for the programs.

MSA had an extremely busy year in 2008 with field programs continuing to expand. The highlights of those programs are summarized as follows:

### **Smolt Study**

MSA completed its 8<sup>th</sup> year studying smolt production on the Southwest Miramichi. In terms of smolt production, 2008 was slightly below the desired target for the river with 914,000 smolts (2.6 smolts per 100m<sup>2</sup>) being produced from the Southwest Miramichi. The ideal target to achieve is at least 3.0 smolts per 100m<sup>2</sup> leaving the Southwest Miramichi. MSA operated two smolt wheels; one on the Cains River and one on the Dungarvon River. International Paper operated a smolt wheel at Rocky Brook. All smolt wheels provided tagged smolts to be recaptured at the Southwest Miramichi trap in Millerton, which was operated by MSA and DFO.

### **Electrofishing**

MSA electrofished headwater areas to find suitable sites for stocking its Atlantic salmon fall fingerlings and to also assess the population and distribution of wild juvenile Atlantic salmon within the river system. We were able to survey the majority of sites, however high water and large amounts of rain made electrofishing difficult. Wild juvenile densities were good, but there were numerous headwater sites that may have been inaccessible to adult salmon resulting in low densities that were stocked with juvenile salmon last fall.

### **Beaver Dam Removal**

MSA staff worked in October to remove beaver dams before and during the spawning season. Numerous dams

were removed on the Miramichi River system and with the high water conditions, it was expected that salmon were able to reach most headwater tributaries.

### **Spawning Survey on the Cains**

MSA finished the last of a three-year program on the Cains River to monitor salmon spawning. Salmon were spawning during the angling season extension in late October of 2007 and 2008, and spawned earlier than was observed in 2006. DFO has decided that the season extension past October 15 will not be granted in 2009 for the Cains River.

### **Satellite Rearing**

MSA worked with 11 different camps and organizations to raise juvenile salmon for fall stocking on the Miramichi. All of the juvenile salmon were clipped to identify them in the 2009 electrofishing survey.

### **Miramichi Salmon Conservation Centre**

MSA continues to operate the Miramichi Salmon Conservation Centre to enhance salmon and brook trout populations. The MSCC has been raising brook trout for the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources for its lake stocking program. This program is shared with Charlo, another non-profit hatchery facility in northern New Brunswick. MSA, J.D. Irving Limited, Miramichi Headwaters Salmon Association and Northumberland Salmon Protection Association have also been working to stock brook trout in the Miramichi River.

### **Fecundity Experiment**

This was the last year for the fecundity experiment that is being conducted in collaboration with DFO to determine the exact number of eggs each female of different fork lengths might contain. We currently have information for different sized salmon collected from 2006-2008 and are developing relationships between female size, sea age and fecundity.

### **Kelt Tracking**

2008 was the first year for the kelt tracking program and it was very successful. Of the 50 kelts tagged with transmitters, 48 were able to make it past the river mouth and through the outer barrier islands at Miramichi Bay. Three of the fish that left the river came back in 2008 to spawn again and more are expected back in 2009. This program is in cooperation with the Atlantic Salmon Federation and DFO.

## Annual Miramichi Salmon Classic Attracts Anglers to the Area

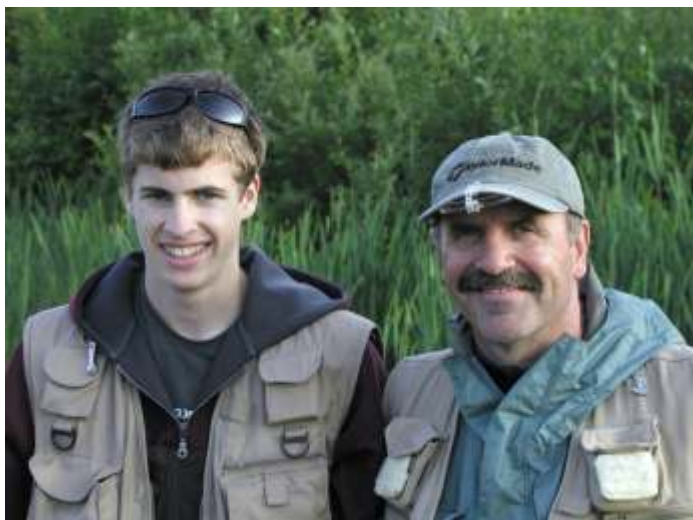
The Miramichi Salmon Association was pleased to host its fourth annual "Miramichi Salmon Classic" on July 12 to 15, 2009, offering three days of angling on the Miramichi River at a variety of pools on the Little Southwest Miramichi, Renous, Dungarvon, Main Southwest Miramichi and many other classic tributaries.



Rev. Bill Baird tries his luck at classic.

*"It's always encouraging to have repeat Classic participants and new ones register,"* said MSA President Mark Hambrook. *"It's a great way to get out to many different pools they may otherwise not be able to fish, for both the novice and skilled angler alike. It's a chance to get together to share stories and enjoy the camaraderie that the River and the sport always seems to present."*

The Classic kicked off on the evening of Sunday, July 12 with a reception and dinner at the Rodd Miramichi Hotel. As a main attraction to this dinner, a 20-minute video of "Memories of the Miramichi" was presented.



Father and Son Classic participants Kim and Andrew Sharpe.

This video was produced by Ted Rogowski, husband of world renowned fly casting demonstrator Joan Wulff, both of whom were in attendance on this occasion. MSA's very own Director and past Chairman and famous Miramichi guide Vincent Swazey and Dewey Gillespie were also key figures in this video.



Barbeque on final day of Classic at Miramichi Salmon Conservation Centre.

Angling took place in the mornings and evenings, and the 41 participants enrolled had some good luck at some of the pools, as evidenced in some of the photos shown here. A wonderful lunch was provided on each of the three days - at Upper Oxbow Adventures in Red Bank; at Metepenagiag Outdoor Adventure Lodge in Red Bank and finally, the barbeque at the Miramichi Salmon Conservation Centre on Wednesday. In talking with the participants, they all were extremely happy with the event and it's always nice to be reminded that *"fishing is not all about the catching!"* They had a great time in any event just sharing in what this great river and its precious resource have to offer!



Guests and Guides enjoy camaraderie at the barbeque.

## A Look at Miramichi Black Rapids Lodge

*Let's get and keep our youth involved in the appreciation of this valuable resource with a memorable fishing experience on the Miramichi River!* Like the MSA, this is an initiative that staff at Miramichi Black Rapids Lodge feels very strongly. As a result, they are pleased to work with MSA to introduce young people to salmon angling in August of 2010. (Unfortunately, there was not enough time to arrange for the course for this year, but planning stages for next year are already underway!)



For the past six years, MSA has offered an annual one-week Youth Fishing course. However, the demand is greater than the ability to accommodate the ever growing list of young participants. Therefore, in an effort to provide more interested youths an opportunity to fish the Miramichi, whether they be novice or more experienced, Katherine Hughes of the Miramichi Black Rapids Lodge in the Blackville area will partner with MSA to offer a 3 night package for a child/adult combination. The adult can enjoy fishing the private

waters at Miramichi Black Rapids Lodge while the child will be taught the regular Youth Camp curriculum by MSA instructor Grant Ross.



The camp will be offered to youth ages 10 - 14 and they will share a room with the adult. The program for the youth runs during the day; the evenings are reserved for adult/child angling. This is a wonderful opportunity for a parent or grandparent to introduce a child to salmon fishing, and experience memorable times on the river together. Accommodations, meals (breakfast 7-8 AM; dinner at noon; supper at 5:00 PM), youth instruction and fishing for both from 6 PM to dark each evening (Adults in the morning) are included. Please keep this in mind while scheduling your itinerary for next summer. It is so important to encourage and keep the youth of today introduced and involved in salmon angling and to share with them the enjoyment of this great sport and the everlasting experiences that will result! To get information on Black Rapids Lodge, view its website at [www.miramichiblackrapids.com](http://www.miramichiblackrapids.com)

## Meet Katherine Hughes at Miramichi Black Rapids Lodge

Katherine Hughes serves Miramichi Black Rapids Lodge as Lodge Manager. She is based in Canada during the operating season and works from Westervelt Sporting Lodges Network headquarters in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, during the winter months. A native of Selma, Alabama, Katherine enjoys all outdoor recreation. She received her bachelor's degree in communication with an emphasis in public relations from Mississippi State University. Prior to joining

Westervelt, Katherine was employed at the Darwin Ranch Lodge in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. She also served Kowas Adventure Safaris as an understudy for operations at their lodge in Namibia, Africa. Katherine's excitement for her work is contagious and she's always eager to speak about the wonderful experiences available at Miramichi Black Rapids Lodge.